

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for measuring irregularities on the outer surface of an article employs
5 an apparatus to obtain qualitative information regarding a first portion of the outer
surface of the article, which can be used to generate a visual representation of a first
portion of the outer surface of the article. Then, the article is moved by a
predetermined amount, and the apparatus is again used to generate a visual
representation of a second portion of the surface of the article. This process is
10 repeated to obtain a plurality of visual representations that together span across a
predetermined amount of the surface of the article. Then, the plurality of visual
representations are processed to generate a single comprehensive enlarged visual
representation of a relatively large surface area of the article, which is preferably
shaded, colored, or otherwise highlighted to illustrate the irregularities that are formed
15 therein. The single comprehensive enlarged visual representation can be used to
analyze the nature of such irregularities.